

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PANAMA 03969 022231Z
ACTION ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-01 SS-14 INR-05 SAB-01 PRS-01
SP-02 /031 W

-----022235Z 044456 /62

P 022108Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2174

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 3969

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

LIMDIS

ARA/PAN PASS AMBASSADOR JORDEN

E.O. 11652: GDSS
TAGS: PN, PQ
SUBJECT: LOPEZ GUEVARA ON THE NEUTRALITY TREATY

1. CARLOS LOPEZ GUEVARA TOLD THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR JUNE 2 THAT HE AND "OTHER MEMBERS" OF THE PANAMANIAN NEGOTIATING TEAM WERE UNHAPPY WITH THE DRAFT NEUTRALITY TREATY ON THE CANAL AND WERE "LOOKING AT" IT WITH A VIEW TO POSSIBLE REVISION.
2. LOPEZ GUEVARA WOULD NOT SAY EXACTLY WHAT BOTHERED HIM ABOUT THE NETRALITY TREATY, BUT HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT HIS PROBLEM WAS FUNDAMENTAL. TO APPROVE THE TREATY AS DRAFTED WOULD BE "A BIG POLITICAL MISTAKE FOR PANAMA", HE SAID. HE ADDED THAT NO OTHER COUNTRY WOULD ADHERE TO IT.
3. LOPEZ GUEVARA SAID THAT HE HAD NOT YET HAD A CHANCE TO EXPRESS HIS VIEW TO TORRIJOS, BUT EXPECTED TO BE ABLE TO DO SO NEXT WEEK, PROBABLY

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PANAMA 03969 022231Z

- MONDAY, WHEN THE ENTIRE TEAM IS EXPECTED TO MEET WITH TORRIJOS. HE SAID THAT THE PRINCIPAL NEGOTIATORS MET YESTERDAY WITH TORRIJOS AND OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.
4. ASKED TO EXPLAIN THE RATHER PRECIPITOUS DEPARTURE OF THE PANAMANIAN NEGOTIATING TEAM FROM WASHINGTON

HE SAID TORRIJOS FELT IT WAS SIMPLY TIME TO REVIEW THE BIDDING. HE SAID THAT SOME OF THE NEGOTIATORS WERE A BIT "WORRIED" ABOUT BEING CALLED HOME, BUT HE FELT IT UNLIKELY THAT ANY HEADS WOULD ROLL OR THAT TALKS WERE IN ANY SERIOUS DANGER.

5. AS THE CONVERSATION ENDED, LOPEZ GUEVARA ASKED TO SEE THE MIAMI HERALD WHICH THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR WAS CARRYING, IN ORDER TO READ THE BANNER AP ARTICLE ABOUT THE NEGOTIATIONS. HE SAID HE HAD LEARNED ABOUT THE ARTICLE FROM A NEWSWEEK REPORTER, WHO WANTED HIS COMMENTS. HE SAID HE REFERRED THIS AND ALL OTHER INQUIRIES FROM NEWSMEN TO CHIEF NEGOTIATOR ROMULO ESCOBAR. AS HE READ THE ARTICLE, HE SAID, "JESUS CHRIST* SOMEBODY HAS BEEN READING THE DOCUMENTS". NEEDLESS TO SAY, HE DENIED BEING THE SOURCE.
GONZALEZ

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NEGOTIATIONS, CANALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 02-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PANAMA03969
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770197-0429
Format: TEL
From: PANAMA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770698/aaaadhpq.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: fa084186-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS, STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS, STADIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2304489
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ECCT: LOPEZ GUEVARA ON THE NEUTRALITY TREATY
TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, PN, PQ, US, (LOPEX GUEVARA, CARLOS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fa084186-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009